

March 27, 1995

LB 68, 460

CLERK: Mr. President, LB 68, no E & R amendments. I do have amendments, however. Senator Schimek would move to amend. Senator, I have AM0750 in front of me. (Found on page 1015 of the Legislative Journal.)

SPEAKER WITHEM: Senator Schimek, AM0750.

SENATOR SCHIMEK: Yes, Mr. President, members of the body, AM0750 is actually LB 460, which was introduced this year in the Health Committee, which was advanced from the Health Committee by a 7 to 0 vote, and did not have any adverse testimony or any opponents to the bill. It is actually a bill that is a follow-up to LB 256 which was passed in 1991, and I mentioned to you on General File that I would be introducing this amendment. What this amendment does is that it amends the screening mammography program to make it a diagnostic program as well. And I mentioned to you on General File that the Department of Health does have a program whereby it screens for mammography for breast and cervical cancer both, and all this bill really does is changes the definition of the fund and makes it a diagnostic fund as well, and for both breast and cervical cancer, and changes the advisory committee. It expands it by eight members, and provides that it is called now the Breast and Cervical Cancer Advisory Committee, and changes the name of the fund. And the reason for this is because since its inception this program has done only screening, but funds have become available to the department from a variety of sources, private donations, who were willing to see the funds used for diagnostic mammography but there was no authority in statute to do that. So that is all this bill really attempts to do is to make it possible for the department to provide for low-income women and women without insurance, who have gone through the screening and need further diagnosis, to allow them to pay for that, and this is not...this does not set up an entitlement. It simply provides that any funds raised may be spent for that purpose, and it doesn't ask for any additional funds, any additional state funds. So with that, I'd be happy to try to answer questions that you might have.

SPEAKER WITHEM: Thank you, Senator Schimek. On the Schimek amendment, Senator Schellpeper.

SENATOR SCHELLPEPER: Thank you, Mr. Speaker and members. I'd have a question of Senator Schimek.